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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/518,996

12/21/2004

Shaily Verma

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24498

7590

05/05/2006

THOMSON LICENSING INC.
PATENT OPERATIONS
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EXAMINER

MEHRPOUR, NAGHMEH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2617

DATE MAILED: 05/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/518,996

Applicant(s)

VERMA ET AL.

Examiner

Naghmeh Mehrpour

Art Unit

2617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/21/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement filed reference listed in the information Disclosure Submitted on 12/21/04 have been considered by the examiner (see attached PTO-1449

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-17, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bridgelall (US patent Number 2002/0085516 A1) in view of Shi et al. (US Publication 2004/0037242 A1).

Regarding claims 1, 11, Bridgelall teaches a method/method for registering a Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN) as a cellular network routing area, comprising the steps of:

determining a location of a service request from a user within a cellular network (0037);

determining whether the location is in or near a WLAN access point (0061);

Bridgelall fails to teach a method wherein if at or near the WLAN access point, maintaining packet data protocol (PDP) context while servicing the request using the WLAN such that interworking between the WLAN and the cellular network is provided. However, Shi teaches a method of allocating addresses to mobile stations wherein if at or near the WLAN access point, maintaining packet data protocol (PDP) context while servicing the request using the WLAN such that interworking between the WLAN and the cellular network is provided (0058-0063). Therefore, it would have been obvious to ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the above teaching of Shi with Bridgelall, in order to provide mapping an Internet protocol address in response to a Domain Name inquiry of a mobile.

Regarding claim 2, Bridgelall teaches a method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step of maintaining packet data protocol (PDP) context while servicing the request using the WLAN includes restricting radio signaling between a user and the cellular network while using the WLAN (0061).

Regarding claim 3, Bridgelall teaches a method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving a request for service for a routing area in a cellular network (0055).

Regarding claim 4, Bridgelall teaches a method/system wherein the WLAN is recognized as a routing area of the cellular network (0055).

Regarding claims 5, 14, Bridgelall teaches a method/system further comprising the step of setting a periodic routing area update timer value while in a WLAN coverage area to reduce signaling while a user is in the WLAN area (0055).

Regarding claim 6, Bridgelall teaches a method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of establishing packet switched signaling connection through the PDP context when existing the WLAN (0075).

Regarding claims 7, 10, Bridgelall teaches a method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of :
controlling the loading of cellular cells by shifting user traffic service to WLANs (0075).

Regarding claim 8, Bridgelall teaches a method as recited in claim 1, wherein the interworking between the cellular network and the WLAN is provided by:
uniquely identifying the WLAN as a routing area of the cellular network; and
once identified, setting a routing area update timer to reduce a number of routing area updates to the cellular network (0055).

Regarding claim 9, 15, Bridgelall teaches a method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step of maintaining the PDP context includes maintaining the PDP context to reduce handoff delay while re-entering the UMTS network (0058, 0061).

Regarding claim 10, Bridgelall teaches a method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of enabling cellular service providers to control the loading of cells by shifting users to WLANs by changing routing area identifiers of the users to that of a WLAN coverage area (0076, 0080-0081).

Regarding claim 12, Bridgelall fails to teach a system as recited in claim 11, wherein the means of maintaining packet data protocol (PDP) context includes a preservation function provided in a mobile station. However, Shi teaches a method of allocating addresses to mobile stations wherein maintaining packet data protocol (PDP) context includes a preservation function provided in a mobile station (0058-0063). Therefore, it would have been obvious to ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the above teaching of Shi with Bridgelall, in order to provide mapping an Internet protocol address in response to a Domain Name inquiry of a mobile.

Regarding claim 13, Bridgelall teaches a system as recited in claim 11, further comprising a unique routing area identifier, which identifies the WLAN in the cellular network (0052).

Regarding claim 15, Bridgelall teaches a system as recited in claim 11, further comprising an interworking function for establishing and maintaining user services between the WLAN and the cellular network (0058, 0061).

Regarding claim 16, Bridgelall fails to teach a system as recited in claim 11, wherein the cellular network includes a Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS). However, Shi teaches a system as recited in claim 11, wherein the cellular network includes a Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS) (0051). Therefore, it would have been obvious to ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the above teaching of Shi with Bridgelall, in order to provide mapping an Internet protocol address in response to a Domain Name inquiry of a mobile.

Regarding claim 17, Bridgelall teaches a system as recited in claim 11, wherein the means for maintaining packet data protocol (PDP) context further comprises a Radio Access Bearer (RAB) setup procedure for establishing interworking between the cellular network and the WLAN (0075).

Regarding claim 18, Bridgelall teaches a system as recited in claim 11, wherein the cellular network learns if a user is in a WLAN coverage area via a routing area identifier (RAI) update message (0008).

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Sundar et al. (US Publication 2003/0134638 A1) disclose method and apparatus for providing mobility management of a mobile station in WLAN and WWAN environment

Soderbacka et al. (US Publication 2003/0114158 A1) disclose intersystem handover of a mobile

Boudreux et al. (US Patent 6,466,556 B1) disclose method of accomplishing handover of packet data flows in a wireless telecommunications system

4. **Any responses to this action should be mailed to:**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Naghmeh Mehrpour whose telephone number is 571-272-7913. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00- 6:00.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marsha Banks-Harold be reached (571) 272-7905.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

NM

April 25, 2006



MILCOY MEHROU
PATENT EXAMINER